



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT PETERS

### First District

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Council President Scott Peters Supports Black Mountain Open Space Park Restoration Project**

San Diego's recent wildfires burned hundreds of thousands of acres of open space, leaving charred earth, burned tree trunks, and an inhospitable environment for many species of animals and birds. Today Council President Scott Peters announced the City of San Diego Council's unanimous commitment to apply for federal funds that would restore a portion of Black Mountain Open Space Park to its native state.

The project would create a suitable environment for the Cactus Wren, an endangered 7-9 inch bird with a brown head, white eyestripe and loud call. "The wildfires were truly devastating for this region, and I support this restoration effort," said Peters. "Protecting the environment has been a major priority while I've served as Councilmember and Council President. Often, that means protecting open space. In this case, it's a restoration effort."

If the application is approved, a \$73,128 federal grant, secured through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), would fund the removal of the invasive, non-native grasslands that currently occupy the space, site preparation, plant acquisition, planting native plants, watering, weed control/plant establishment, and monitoring. The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon would partner with The City of San Diego, providing volunteer hours for the project. They will map the area using Geographic Information System technology and assist with the habitat restoration.

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